The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Men generally act according to custom.—Bacon.

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COAL OWNERS WOULD BEFOG STRIKE CAUSE

Trade unionists should hold to fundamentals in discussing the coal strike, now in its second year.

Coal owners and their allies insist that the industry is overdeveloped. This detracts from the real issue.

The coal owners want wages based on West Virginia, which they have deunionized while employing union miners in their northern fields.

Now they are attempting to smash the union in the northern fields. They have violated their contract, employ private armies, secure labor injunctions, evict families from company houses and indulge in other forms of terrorization.

To hide outlawry and union-smashing they plead the industry is overdeveloped.

The miners accept this claim. They—and they alone—suggest a remedy. The owners' silence to this offer is significant. Neither have the owners offered any suggestion to the Senate strike probe committee.

"Leave us alone; let us destroy the union and have competition in wages," is the owners' policy.

The miners are not responsible for an overdeveloped industry. They can not be blamed for deplorable conditions the owners would remedy by pitting one group of workers against another group in a wage-cutting contest.

The miners have repeatedly pointed out that if their union is smashed and wages drop to the West Virginia standard, that state will lower rates. The northern fields will meet this reduction, and so on until the starvation point is reached.

The sincerity of the coal owners can be questioned when they deplore the ills of this industry. They are only interested in serf conditions for employes. They have but one solution—low wages.

When miners reject this economic insanity, they are lectured by those who are merely echoes for the coal owners.

The one question is: Can coal industry ills be removed by smashing the Miners' Union and by wage competition between the various fields?

Talk of an overdeveloped industry is no answer to this question. A living wage must be assured and the union must be permitted to function.

Only greed-crazed employers will say the remedy lies in beating wages down to pauper standards of Middle Europe.

No constructive measure for the coal industry is possible if the union is destroyed and owners have a free hand to set wages.

Talk of an overdeveloped industry at the present time is an attempt to have the public ignore anarchy that the coal owners have established.

They have presented one rational remedy to remove evils they would intensify.

Starve the workers, that autocracy in the coal fields may be complete, is their objective.

BUSINESS MEN URGED TO EXPEL "PIRATES"

Washington, May 12.—Organized business should expel from its ranks those "pirates" who flaunt the law and debauch public servants, said Judge Edwin B. Parker, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, at the opening of that organization's annual session.

The speaker declared that if business does not purge itself of those who defy law the public will turn loose thunderbolts of wrath which will be in the form of governmental regulation of business.

"If you don't clean your house the **people will," was the essence of Judge Parker's speech.**

The speaker referred to recent examples of individuals prominent in big business becoming intoxicated with power and involved in transactions tainted with fraud and corruption. Judge Parker declined to discuss men in high places who betrayed public trusts. He placed his finger on the cause of this betrayal when he declared that business "can't be kept out of its own eye" by purging itself of "those corrupters of public servants whose moral turpitude is making possible the betrayal of a public trust."

UNIONS URGED TO AID MINERS; LONG STRIKE BREAKS RECORD

Washington, May 12.—The A. F. of L. executive council requests national and international unions to either levy an assessment equal to one day's pay or to contribute an amount equal to this amount for the benefit of striking coal miners.

The request follows an appeal by officers of the United Mine Workers who appeared before the executive council at their recent meeting in Washington.

"This committee told in simple language the story of the tragic economic struggle which has, for more than a year, been going on in the bituminous coal fields of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia," the council states. "It was a story of police brutality, court injunctions, wholesale evictions, oppression, starvation and social degradation.

"While organized labor has responded most generously to the two previous appeals which were issued, we feel sure that they will again respond in full measure to this third request of the executive council.

"We know you will believe us when we say that words fail because conditions are indescribable. We appeal to you, with all the earnestness we possess and in the spirit of tried and true trade unionism, to make a substantial contribution to the cause of the striking miners and their families.

"Picture, if you can, the thousands of under-fed, ill-clad and emaciated children dependent upon help. Even though your income may be inadequate to meet all your needs, and your difficulties may be great, bear in mind your lives are not in danger, and bad as your condition may be it does not compare to the misery and suffering in the bituminous strike fields.

"We make this urgent, pressing appeal to organized labor and friends to give as they have never given before. The miners and their families need help and they need it now. Their future and lives are involved in this struggle.

"Send all money to Frank Morrison, Secretary A. F. of L., Washington, D. C.

"Send all food and clothing to Wm. Hargest, Columbia Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

"The pressing need is for money and food.

"Do not make your contributions to either the so-called National Miners' Relief Committee or to the Ohio-Pennsylvania Miners' Relief Committee.

"If solicitors call upon you, require them to show credentials issued by the A. F. of L. before you contribute."

Woman Law Maker's Reckless Plea Brings Victory For Oriental Labor

Washington, May 12.—Mrs. Florence P. Kahn, congresswoman from San Francisco, made a successful plea on the floor of the House for coolie labor on ships flying the American flag. She made the astonishing statement that climatic conditions in the tropics make it impossible to employ white men in the steward's department of these vessels.

The House, sitting in committee of the whole, passed the bill by the close vote of 51 to 44. The bill is opposed by the A. F. of L. executive council and the International Seamen's Union. These workers are determined that the Senate will be acquainted with the full significance of a vicious proposal that is alleged will develop the merchant marine.

Mrs. Kahn ignored statistical proof that the percentage of deaths of white men on ships sailing in the tropics is less than any other race. This question has been investigated by the British Board of Trade, a governmental bureau similar to the United States Department of Commerce.

Mrs. Kahn declared that if coolies can not be employed by the Dollar Steamship Company and other ship companies our merchant marine will be driven off the Pacific. She overlooked the fact that white men are employed as firemen on these ships and that they shovel coal into blazing furnaces while in the tropics, but she insisted that white men employed in the steward's department, which comprises two-thirds of the crew, must be replaced by Orientals "because of the heat."

Never in the history of the House have such reckless statements been made when the merchant marine was under discussion.

Congressman La Guardia presented a table of wages paid on the Admiral California, a British vessel, and the President Wilson, an American vessel operated by the Dollar Steamship Company. Wages of an able-bodied seamen on the British ship is $43.80 a month, and $10.97 a month on the American ship.

"It is simply a question of getting a man to work for $10 a month," said Mr. La Guardia.

Defenders of coolie labor shriek for an American merchant marine and deplore the failure of American boys to take jobs now held by coolies. These patriots make no mention of debasing conditions that American boys will not accept.

NEW RETIREMENT BILL APPROVED BY SENATE

Washington, May 12.—The bill to liberalize the civil service retirement law, introduced by Mr. Dale, passed the Senate without a dissenting vote.

The bill has been urged by organized government employes for two years. The maximum retirement annuity is increased from $1,000 to $1,200. Optional retirement after 30 years' service, providing the employe has reached a certain age, is permitted.

Under the present law all employes are eligible for retirement after 15 years' service if they have reached the age of 70. The Dale bill permits them to retire at 68, after 15 years' service.

Postal employes who now have to wait until they are 66 years of age to retire, will be aided, under the Dale bill, to retire at 63, and employes in hazardous pursuits, who now have to wait until they are 62, may retire at 60.

Mr. Lehlbach of New Jersey has introduced a similar bill in the House.

INCREASE IS VOTED IN FEDERAL SALARIES

Washington, May 12.—The Welch salary bill, changed in all but the name, passed the House, after the members suspended the rules by a vote of 281 to 14. The bill now goes to the Senate. The original measure proposed a flat increase of $300 a year. It is estimated that the compromise bill will increase salaries $18,000,000, and that before the next Congress convenes information will be secured that of industrial depression would be created by a bill introduced by Congressman Rathbone.

This amount would be apportioned as follows: $75,000,000 for rural post roads, $50,000,000 for rivers and harbors work, $10,400,000 for flood control work, and $15,000,000 for public buildings. No appropriations would be made until the department finds that construction work has fallen 10 per cent in three months' period below the average of the corresponding three months in the preceding three years.

"With the advance of civilization," said Mr. Rathbone, "we have come more and more to recognize the value of each human being and the right of every man and woman to earn a living. Unemployment can no longer be looked upon as a matter of indifference to the State, but should claim our interest and sympathetic consideration."

REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO. WON'T MEET UNIONISTS

Durham, N. C., May 12.—The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company of Winston-Salem was condemned for its anti-union attitude at a Piedmont Organizing Council in this city.

The company manufactures the Camel cigarette and Prince Albert smoking tobacco. Every request for a conference to improve low wages has been answered, "We have nothing to discuss," speakers said. The company was charged with dismissing employes because of trade union membership.

The unionists used vigorous language in paying their compliments to Frank D. Grier, State commissioner of labor and printing, who has said that every one of the 70,000 unemployed persons in North Carolina could get a job "if they wanted to work."

RENEW CONTRACT

Detroit, May 12.—Organized bricklayers secured a two-year contract. Wages of $1.87½ an hour is unchanged, but work conditions are improved.

ELECTRICIANS GAIN

Peoria, Ill., May 12.—Organized electricians raised wages 7 cents an hour. The new rate is $1.25.

HOUSE PASSES FARM BILL; LIKE ACTION BY SENATE

Washington, May 12.—By a non-partisan vote of 204 to 121 the House passed the McNary-Haugen bill with the equalization fee. The bill has passed the Senate with the equalization fee. After conferees representing both branches adjust differences the bill will go to the President who vetoed the measure last year on the ground that the equalization fee is unconstitutional.

This is the fourth time the House voted on the bill, which has its origin in the Middle West during the upset condition that attended the early years of World War reconstruction.

"PROSPERITY RESERVE" SOUGHT FOR EMPLOYMENT

Washington, May 12.—A prosperity reserve of $150,000,000 to stabilize industry and employment by the expansion of public works during periods of industrial depression would be created by a bill introduced by Congressman Rathbone.

The bill provides increases for practically all federal employes, exclusive of the postal service, foreign service and mechanics and draftsmen, except those in the custodial service or whose work is incident to professional and scientific work, who are included.

The fight for the bill was started on by the National Federation of Federal Employes, affiliated to the A. F. of L.

Luther Steward, president of the Federal Employes, said that the 281-14 vote can be considered as representative of the sentiment in favor of adequate salary increases for these workers.

ANCIENT "LAW" LOSING OUT

A committee of the National House of Representatives has approved a bill which will permit manufacturers to set retail prices. If retailers sell below that price manufacturers may refuse to sell goods to them—the boycott is legalized.

The loudest objectors to "government interference with business" are the first to ask government aid when it suits their purpose.

The "law of supply and demand" now only applies to wage workers.

They are classed as "conspirators" if they refuse to give service for reasons they believe just.

MOLDING PUBLIC OPINION

If the Federal Trade Commission's investigation of public utilities were given space it deserves by the daily press, the nation would know how public opinion is stealthily formed by corporations.

No group should be denied the right to present their views to fellow citizens, but objection can be raised when secret propaganda reaches into our public schools, controls educators, writes textbooks and raises secret funds that every user of gas, electricity and water power must pay for.

The investigation should awaken organized labor to the resourcefulness of those who oppose trade unionism, labor injunction relief, the federal child labor amendment and other social and legislative policies.

Behind seemingly spontaneous and nation-wide opposition to social changes can be found crafty men who direct these movements. They have unlimited financial resources and an entry into every avenue that molds public opinion.

Those who profit by these secret movements can not be expected to expose the plot.

Trade unionists should be realists, and extend their own publicity machinery, rather than depend upon others.

Things don't "just happen."

ANY OLD INJUNCTION IS AID TO EMPLOYERS

Washington, May 12.—When a labor injunction is set aside by a higher court, the writ has served its purpose, says John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department, writing in the Bulletin of that organization.

These injunctions, said Mr. Frey, are just as serviceable to the employer as if they were not set aside, as the issue between the employer and workers is generally terminated.

"In practically every case where injunctions have been modified by higher courts the result has been similar to the jury finding the accused not guilty after he has been hanged."

OLD PRICE THEORY HAS FEW DEFENDERS

Washington, May 12.—A subcommittee of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee has approved a bill that would permit manufacturers of well known trade-marked or branded articles to set the price at which these goods shall be sold by the retailer. The price can be denied goods if he sells below the announced price.

The bill indicates the passing of former rules in business. In his minority report, Congressman Lea said: "The contention to interfere with the general right of a buyer of property to dispose of it on any terms satisfactory to himself."

The majority report declared that if chain stores are permitted to sell well known goods below cost all other stores will be driven out of business and the chains will have manufacturers at their mercy.

"The testimony already taken shows that local dealers suffer destructive competition from the chain stores and other large distributors with great capital, who often offer standard goods of a nationally advertised brand at prices which represent cost, or in some cases less than cost. They do this for the sole purpose of attracting customers and make up their loss on this standard article by greater profits on articles which are not sold under a standard or advertised prices so that the customer is not advised as to a fair price."

LOW WAGES IN SOUTH

Washington, May 12.—An average wage of $18.94 for a work week of 64½ hours in the seasonal cotton-ginning industry is reported by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Cotton gins separate cotton seed from the lint.

WOMEN'S LAW VIOLATED

Globe, Ariz., May 12.—The manager of the Woolworth 5 and 10 cent store was fined $25 for working girls overtime, in violation of the state women's eight-hour law.

BARBERS WANT MORE

Hamilton, Ontario, May 12.—Organized barbers in this city demand wage increases. The present scale is nine years old.

MOTOR CAR EMPLOYES MAKE DISTINCT GAIN

Oshawa, Ontario, May 12.—The company "union" of the General Motors Corporation of Canada will be abandoned, as will a proposed wage reduction, are features of an award by a Board of Investigation and Conciliation, following a strike at the motor plant here. The workers were recently organized under the A. F. of L.

The board also ruled:

Recognition of employes' right to organize and affiliate with regular trade union movement.

Protection of union men and women in employing, hiring and treatment of employes.

No reduction of piece work prices; establishment of practice that once a piece work price is agreed to same will continue, irrespective of wages earned.

Demotion of arrogant superintendents and foremen; establishment of courtesy standards to be observed by these officials.

Right of employes to carry complaints to management that are not properly settled by superintendents or foremen.

Re-grouping of certain classes of workmen with higher wage rates.

Settlement of irritating minor grievances.

TEXTILE STRIKERS JOIN REGULAR UNION

New Bedford, Mass., May 12.—A majority of the thousands of textile workers on strike against wage reductions have voted to affiliate with the United Textile Workers, a unit of the A. F. of L.

The United Textile Workers will take charge of the strike.

Affiliation with the regular union indicates a change of sentiment among workers who have been split into independent organizations. Merciless exploitation by speeding-up systems, low wages and long hours has compelled them to consider the value of unity.

CONVICT MINE LABOR OPPOSED BY WORKERS

Greensboro, N. C., May 12.—Opposition to convict labor in the mines of this State is registered by the local Central Labor Union.

The superintendent of the State prison announces that a number of convicts will be sent to the mines, and the unionists point out that there are between 75,000 and 100,000 unemployed persons in North Carolina.

"We further condemn a practice," the unionists said, "that permits a man or woman sentenced to a penitentiary or other penal institution to be transferred to a mine by the prison superintendent or other official for monetary gain for said institution and in direct competition with free working men and women."

CAN'T COLLECT DAMAGES

Grand Rapids, Mich., May 12.—Circuit Judge M. L. Dunham rejected a $20,000 damage claim by a non-union painter who charged that the Painters' Union and the local Federation of Labor.

The defendants distributed cards in which the plaintiff concern was classed as unfriendly to organized labor.

"This is not an unlawful interference with business," said Judge Dunham.

UTILITIES' METHODS ARE IGNORED BY PRESS

Washington, May 12.—The Federal Trade Commission's investigation of public utilities "is not attracting the attention it should from the leading newspapers of the country," said Senator Norris, in discussing testimony before the Commission that these utilities engage in secret propaganda that reaches into the nation's public school system.

"All the prophecies that have been made in the Senate regarding the water power trust and the electric trust are being fulfilled in this investigation," said Senator Norris.

"The very purpose for which it was created by the Federal Trade Commission in favor of the water power and the electric trust must shock the conscience of fair-minded people when they read or hear of it."

Senator Norris quoted testimony to show how these corporations have fastened themselves "upon the newspapers and the schools and the teachers and the text-books."

"This is what the children are taught," continued the Nebraska lawmaker, "You must not own your own public utilities in your town unless they are owned by the municipalities and then you can give them fits every day."

The Senator cited Connecticut to show how the public utilities have control of the schools. In that State high schools and grade schools are using text books whose mechanism and public utilities that was prepared by the publicity bureau of the Connecticut utilities.

"REDS" ARE SHUNNED BY EUROPEAN UNION

Washington, May 12.—The International Federation of Metal Workers has no connection with the Red International, says Conrad Ilg, general secretary of the Federation, in a letter to Bern, Switzerland, to John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. Metal Trades Department.

Mr. Ilg recently visited the United States. He and Mr. Frey have been discussing affiliation of American metal workers with the International Federation.

"At no time has our Federation had any relations with the Red International," Mr. Ilg writes. "So long as the Russian organizations insist on adhering to the Communistic principles of policies in the trade union movement, so long as the Red International continues its Communistic propaganda in our trade unions, no form of affiliation can be possible with the Russian trade unions. In view of our well known policy, I have to state to me that any suspicion regarding the attitude of our Federation, on the part of Russian trade unionists, is unwarranted."

Mr. Ilg says that while the problems and methods of European trade unions differ from those in America, "this should not constitute any reason for our failure to work hand in hand internationally and be affiliated with the members of the same international trade union organizations."

FEDERAL COURT AIDS INCREASED FARE MOVE

New York, May 12.—The federal district court has ruled that the Interborough Rapid Transit Company is entitled to a 7-cent fare. This corporation operates the subways, built with city money. A contract between the two parties provides for a 5-cent fare.

State courts enjoined the company from increasing rates, but the company carried the case to the federal court. City officials secured a stay of the new rate from Associate Justice Stone of the United States Supreme Court.

The Interborough has been conducting an anti-union campaign among its employes. It maintains a company "union" and enforces the yellow dog contract.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Omaha, May 12.—Newspaper printers secured a one-year contract which increases rates every year. Night workers' pay the third year will be $51 a week and day workers, $48.

Commercial shop printers recently increased rates $1 for a week of 44 hours.

Los Angeles, May 12.—Newspaper printers have raised wages $1.70 a week. The new rate is $56 for night work and $53 for day work.

PEOPLE DON'T NEED MODERN STREET CAR

Baltimore, May 12.—Street cars are no longer a necessity, according to Raymond S. Williams, special counsel for the Public Service Commission, in an answer to a court petition of the local street car company that the commission's ruling against a straight 10-cent fare be set aside. The commission fixed the fare at three tokens for a quarter, or 9 cents straight.

If the street car system were abandoned because of physical or financial catastrophe, Mr. Williams said, there would be no application or reconstruction. People are using the automobile, he said.

As a result, he argued, what the company regards as a demand for its services is actually only the effect of its monopoly. If the monopoly were abandoned, he declared, transportation by bus would be substituted by capitalists of today. The attorney cited the traffic on Fleet Street, in London, where, he pointed out, the street is narrow, yet bus transportation, the only kind available, carries the heaviest traffic of any street comparable in the world.

RULE-BY-PEOPLE THEORY JEERED BY MUSSOLINI

Rome, Italy, May 12.—The theory that the people are supreme was declared by Mussolini to be "a most constitutional falsehood" at the annual convention of Fascist organizations.

The autocrat was applauded when he referred to those "who have assumed grave responsibility in guiding the Italian people." He praised workers for accepting wage reductions.

The speech clearly defines differences between one-man rule and government by the majority.

FASCISM RUINS ITALY, REFUGEE POINTS OUT

New York, May 12.—"The Fascist government grows more despotic," said Arturo Labriola, former undersecretary of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Minister of Labor, who has arrived in this city after fleeing from Naples. The visitor drew a vivid picture of bitter conditions in his native country. He said Fascism is bringing Italy to economic ruin, despite contrary reports, and that that government is guilty of not only physical violence in cases too numerous to list, but also of legal violence.

The special tribunal for political crimes, which include even the mildest criticism of the king or Mussolini is an example of this," he said. "Members of this tribunal are appointed by the Fascisti and have absolute power. "Fascism has no trouble in maintaining itself," he said. "As John Stuart Mill pointed out, any strong government which despises all moral laws, allows its opponents no rights and has strong armed forces at its disposal has nothing to fear. Look at Russia.

"As to whether or not Mussolini is a menace to European peace, that is a complicated question. No one nation holds the absolute balance between peace and war. Mussolini and his advisors do not actually want war. They have too much at stake. Nevertheless, war is likely to result from their regime. Fascism is a military organization and such organizations are apt to create their own functions."

BOSSES HAVE TROUBLES IN STOCK-SELLING PLAN

New York, May 12.—The sky-high stock market in Wall Street brings troubles to corporations who sell their stock to employes.

When the market is depressed and stock values decline, the spirit of these employes is likewise depressed. In the present instance, however, values have increased and employes are selling at a profit.

This defeats the purpose of corporations, who induce employes to buy stock not for money-making, but to hold them to their jobs.

Some concerns have issued a special class of non-negotiable stock to employes, but these workers are suspicious of restrictions. Other firms give a bonus if the stock is not sold, but employes figure that "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," and act accordingly when profits are in sight.

The corporations will be thankful for any information that will aid them in solving this problem. Many of these big employes cheerful when stock prices are low, and will deter them from selling, just as their employer does, when a profit is in sight.

CULINARY WORKERS UNITE

Canton, Ohio, May 12.—Culinary workers in this city have organized and are affiliated to the trade union movement.

Utilities Reach Into Schools; Trust Molds Children's Mind

Washington, May 12.—Pennsylvania public utilities maintain a surveillance over textbooks on economics used in the schools and colleges in that state, according to testimony submitted to the Federal Trade Commission in its probe of public utilities.

Letters written by J. S. S. Richardson, former head of the Pennsylvania public service bureau, and manager of the national bureau maintained by the utilities, show that textbooks in that state were surveyed with a view to the elimination of all matter objectionable to these corporations.

In one letter Richardson advised that local publicity committees carry on this campaign "in a manner well safeguarded from suspicion."

Dr. Theodore J. Grayson, professor of economics at the University of Pennsylvania, was paid $407.27 for fee and expenses for making a speech in New Orleans last year. He was also paid $579.89 for the same purpose at Richmond, Va., at Ithaca, N. Y.

Dr. Grayson is antagonistic to government ownership in every form. He organized night classes, Richardson said, "to combat the movement for public ownership."

The committee uncovered a slush fund of $59,000 which was used by electric power interests to hire lobbyists and influence this session of the Pennsylvania.

Witnesses for the power trust admitted that part of this money was spent secretly and not accounted for. Walter H. Johnson of Philadelphia, until recently president of the Philadelphia Electric Company and now head of the publicity bureau maintained by the utilities of that State, distributed this money. He assured the committee that he could not recollect where he placed the money, although on February 29 of this year he spent the last $675 of it.

Pacific Coast Carpenters Released; Held Under Trumped-Up Charges

San Francisco, May 12.—Superior Judge Ruben Schmidt of Los Angeles dismissed charges against 50 union carpenters, and the plot to discredit the labor movement of this city has collapsed.

The carpenters suspended work two years ago to enforce the union shop. The Industrial Association led the fight against them.

Judge Schmidt was ordered from Los Angeles to take the place of Judge Conlon. In every case disposed of by the court the men were released. The charges against the accused carpenters. The representatives of the Industrial Association and the police department agree with the judge and the cases are dismissed.

"After several trials, two union carpenters, Madsen and Pesce, were found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to prison by Judge Conlon, on the same 'evidence' that was ruled 'insufficient' by Judge Schmidt in the cases of six other defendants charged jointly with Madsen and Pesce with the murder of a non-unionist. The cases of Madsen and Pesce are now on appeal and it is expected that they will be acquitted."

DISTRICT ATTORNEY ASSAILED BY LABOR

Los Angeles, May 12.—Labor has begun a campaign to defeat District Attorney Asa Keyes, who has been active in the prosecution of union men charged with violence in connection with the open shop campaign.

Keyes is a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor.

Labor's campaign is being conducted by the Los Angeles Labor Defense Committee.